

HCS SS SB 623 -- MOTOR FUEL TAX

SPONSOR: Libla (Kolkmeyer)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 10 to 1. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on State and Local Governments by a vote of 8 to 0.

Upon voter approval, this bill raises the motor fuel tax by 5.9 cents per gallon which increases the tax from 17 cents to a total of 22.9 cents per gallon starting January 1, 2017. The compressed natural gas fuel tax and liquefied natural gas fuel taxes will increase by 5.9 cents per gallon from 5 cents per gallon to 10.9 cents per gallon and during each existing staggered tax period increase by 6 cents until the tax is 22.9 cents per gallon starting January 1, 2025.

Upon voter approval, the bill also raises the alternative fuel decal fees for alternative fuel vehicles by \$25, and requires an owner or operator of a plug-in electric hybrid vehicle, of model year 2017 or newer, to pay 50% of the stated annual alternative fuel decal fee.

This bill contains a referendum clause.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that an increased motor fuel tax would help provide a sound funding plan for Missouri's roads. Missouri cannot expect to maintain its infrastructure by having one of the lowest fuel taxes in the country.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Libla; Missouri Farm Bureau; Patrick McKenna, Missouri Department of Transportation; Site Improvement Association; St. Charles County Executive; Steve Ehlmann, Missouri Municipal League; Doc Kritzer, County Commissioners & Missouri Association of Counties; Missouri Chamber Of Commerce & Industry; Missouri Trucking Association; Missouri Association For Social Welfare; AAA Auto Club Of Missouri; Missouri Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association (MPCA); and the Missouri Dump Truckers Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that Missouri should instead consider partnerships with private partners and become more efficient rather than increase taxes.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Alliance For Freedom and Americans For Prosperity.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say all modes of

transportation should be considered in any funding plan.

Testifying on the bill was Jeff W. Glenn.